Committees on Railway Accidents

1916. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: .

(a) whether the recommendations of various Committees including Prakash Narain Committee on Railway accidents have since been considered and action taken on them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Between 1960 and 1980, three High Powered Committees viz. Railway Accidents Committee— 1962 (Kunzru Committee), Railway Accidents Inquiry Committee— 1968 (Wanchoo Committee) and Railway Accidents Enquiry Committee- 1978 (Sikri Committee) went into the entire gamut of Railway working and suggested measures for improving the Railway Safety. Action for implementation of the accepted recommendations of these Committees was taken.

Thereafter, Railway Safety Review Committee i.e. RSRC (Khanna Committee) had been set up in 1998 to, inter alia, review the position of accidents on the Indian Railways and to review the implementation of the recommendations made by the earlier Committees and to make their own recommendations. The Railway Safety Review Committee made a total of 278 recommendations in both the parts of its report. Of the 242 recommendations, which have been accepted fully or partially, 92 have already been implemented. Other accepted recommendations are at various stages of implementation depending upon the availability of resources.

There was no Prakash Narain Committee on railway accidents. However, a National Transportation Safety Board had been set up in 1987 under the Cabinet Secretariat, with the main objective of bringing about improvements in safety in different transport sectors like Railways, Civil Aviation, Road Transport etc. This Board was wound up with effect from 1st April, 1990. Shri Prakash Narain was the Chairman of National Transportation Safety Board.

After winding up the National Transportation Safety Board, some recommendations pertaining to Railways were communicated to the Ministry of Railways on which action as warranted was taken.